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**State Government & Tribal  
Affairs Committee**

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**HB 2904**

**Brief Description:** Prohibiting county and city incumbent candidates from appearing on publicly funded television during the election.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Haler and Hailey.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Prohibits incumbent candidates for city or county legislative or executive office from appearing on publicly funded television except in an official capacity.

**Hearing Date:** 2/1/08

**Staff:** Tracey Taylor (786-7196).

**Background:**

Candidates for public office are subject to numerous laws regarding campaigning. These laws include filing campaign contribution and expenditure reports. Incumbent candidates also face additional restrictions to ensure they do not use public resources for campaign purposes. For example elective officials, their employees, or their agency's employees may not use any of the facilities of a public agency or office, directly or indirectly, for the purpose of assisting a campaign for election of any person or any office or for the promotion or opposition to a ballot measure. This includes stationery, postage, use of employees during working hours, and agency publications.

**Summary of Bill:**

Beginning June 1 of an election year for county or city legislative or executive office, and continuing through November 30 immediately after the general election, an incumbent county or city legislative member or executive may not appear on a publicly funded television station except in certain circumstances. An incumbent candidate may appear as a participant in a meeting of the county or city legislative body, as part of an open public meeting by members of an elected

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legislative body to express a collective opinion or acting in an official capacity at an open public event.

"Candidate" is defined as any individual who seeks the nomination for election to a city or county public office. An individual is considered to be seeking the nomination when he or she first: receives contributions or makes expenditures or reserves space or facilities with an intent to promote his or her candidacy for office; announces publicly or files for office; purchases commercial advertising space or broadcast time to promote his or her candidacy; or gives his or her consent to another person to do any of these activities.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.